

PROTECTED FOREST AREA IN SOUTH KANARA DISTRICT

715 SMT. W.F. FERNANDES (Coondapur).—Will the Minister for Agriculture and Forest be pleased to state :—

(a) whether according to the survey of 1894, the protected Forest Area in South Kanara District was 58% and that the Buffer area was 100 yards under the Forest Rules (Old) ;

(b) whether the protected All India Forest Area was only 24% and that the same is proposed to be increased to 30% ;

(c) whether Government contemplates further addition to the Forest area in South Kanara District, raising the percentage up to 65% to 75%, to the detriment of lands reserved for Scheduled Castes, and Scheduled Tribes and also as Gomal lands ;

(d) whether the final notification under Section 16 of the Forest Act is still pending approval by the Deputy Commissioner ;

(e) if so, whether Government intend to drop the idea of increasing such forest area in the State ?

SRI K. H. PATIL (Minister for Agriculture and Forest),—

(a) Information regarding percentage of protected Forest Area in South Kanara District during 1894 is not available.

Buffer area of 100 yards was left around Reserve Forest in South Kanara District as per the Board of Revenue standing order of erstwhile Madras State.

(b) The forest area of the country is 24% of the land area. The National Forest policy of 1952 has recommended, in consideration of the climatic and Geographical requirements the increase of the forest area to 33%. It is recommended that 60% of the Geographical area over mountainous tracts and 20% in the plains should at least be brought under forests.

(c) In South Kanara District the extent of unreserved land is 1,134 sq. miles. Due to lack of protection illicit felling was common and soil erosion was also taking place over denude tract. In the interest of preservation of the forest growth as also in the interest of Soil Conservation, it was proposed to reserve suitable books.

The Deputy Commissioner, had proposed an area of 2,15,218,24 acres of unreserved lands for this purpose. From out of this 94,945,81 acres has been surveyed and the blocks formed.

In a few cases it has come to light that small extent of land asked for by the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes were also included in these surveyed extents. Action has been taken to exclude the same.

The mere constitution of any land as reserved forest will not affect the grazing position as free grazing is allowed in all the forest areas except in younger plantation.

(d) No. Some of the notification under Section 16 of the Forest Act have been received with the recommendation of the Deputy Commissioner for publication by Government.

(e) No.

SMT. W. F. FERNANDES.—In South Kanara District, the extent of unreserved land is 1,134 sq. miles. Out of this, how many miles have got forest growth and how many miles are barren?

† SRI K. H. PATIL.—As I have stated, unreserved land is 1,134 sq. miles. It does not mean that there is no forest.

SMT. W. F. FERNANDES.—Does the Hon'ble Minister mean that there are no barren lands?

SRI K. H. PATIL.—I mean by forest land, land which has been taken by the Forest Department.

SMT. W. F. FERNANDES.—In these reserved forest lands wherever there is water resource, will Government delete those lands and give them to the landless for cultivation of crops?

SRI K. H. PATIL.—The Forest Department desire and in fact, is very anxious to utilise the underground water for the development of forest wealth. Therefore, the question of releasing forest land for cultivation of crops, does not arise.

1—30 P. M.

SRI H. S. SIDDAPPA.—Notwithstanding the policy of the Government not to release forest land for cultivation of crops, would the Government at least consider sympathetically the cases of persons who have brought under cultivation forest land and been growing crops like coconut and release such land to those cultivators?

SRI K. H. PATIL.—I have made the point clear, and the policy of the Government is known to hon. members.

REMISSION OF LAND REVENUE IN JIGANI HOBLI

765. SRI M. B. RAMASWAMY (Anekal).—Will the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state :—